



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF PENSACOLA BAY AREA

Volume 65 Issue 2 October 2014

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LWV Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. The LWVPA affirms its commitment to actively seek diversity in its membership, leadership and programs.

The October Voter is an overview of League activities during the last few months as well as an announcement of the October meeting.



Proposed Amendments and Issues on November Ballot

Saturday, October 18, 2014

Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave
Refreshments will be available at 10:15 am with the program at 10:30 am

Bill Caplinger, League member, will present information on the three proposed constitutional amendments at the October monthly meeting on Saturday, October 18, at the Tryon Library. The program will also include the background on the appointment of judges in the courts of appeal in Florida, Ballot issues for voters in the City of Pensacola, Escambia County and Santa Rosa County.

League Positions on Proposed Amendments

Amendment 1

Water and Land Conservation

(The League strongly supports this amendment.)

Amendment 2

Use of Marijuana for Certain Medical Conditions

(The League has no position on this amendment.)

Amendment 3

Prospective Appointment of Certain Judicial Vacancies

(The League opposes this amendment.)

Nonpartisan Voter Guide

Our local League received 15,000 copies of the Nonpartisan Voter Guide from LWVF. This publication includes an explanation (pros and cons) of the three proposed constitutional amendments to be voted on the November 4 ballot.



The Guide lists questions asked of candidates in statewide races, including governor, attorney general, chief financial officer and commissioner of agriculture.

The Guide provides an explanation of the merit selection and retention of the appeals court judges as well as justices on the Florida Supreme Court.

League volunteers have distributed Guides throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties so that voters can become informed prior to election day. An electronic copy of the Guide may be found on our website at www.lwvpba.org. Special thanks are extended to all of you who have assisted in this project.

Kudos to the Voter Service Committee

Charlyle Parrish, newly elected chair of the Voter Service committee, 'hit the ground running' during this election year. In the spring, she coordinated voter registration activities at 19 senior citizen centers in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. This project was undertaken with assistance from the offices of the Supervisors of Elections in the two counties as well as the Council on Aging.



Voter registration continued throughout the summer at Seville Square, Bayfront Park, Salvation Army, Navarre Pancake Breakfast, Milton, UWF and a Pensacola Beach forum.

During the summer, long hours were spent in writing candidate questions for Rally 2014 at WSRE-TV. Members who gave freely of their time and expertise included Paula Montgomery, Fay Walker, Gene Feicht, Kim Macarthy, Charlyle Parrish, Janet deLorge, Sharon Henderson, Cassandra Sharp, Teresa Vance, Ellen Roston, Carol Scott and Vivian Faircloth. Once again, Charlyle coordinated the project by securing meeting sites and providing duplicated questions for consideration. Thanks also to the League volunteers who assisted at WSRE during Rally for both the Primary and General Elections.

Voter service consists not only of registering citizens to vote but also entails education on ballot issues. Mary Gutierrez, Rosemary Hays-Thomas and Paula Montgomery are speaking to various civic and church groups throughout the community, giving objective presentations on the three proposed constitutional amendments. ◇

League on Stage in Imogene Theatre

by Kim Macarthy

August 7, 2014, the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area held a forum for City of Milton candidates. This was a historic day in the political arena for city politics in Milton, FL. Elected officials for the City of Milton had never participated in a true forum, where opponents were asked questions they had not seen prior to the event.



The setting for the first-ever City of Milton Forum was the beautiful, historic Imogene Theatre. Participants were seated according to the specific Ward they were seeking to win. Questions were presented by League Co-President Mary Gutierrez, with League Co-President Haley Richards performing the timekeeper duties. Charlyle Parrish, Voter Service Committee Chair, screened questions that were submitted by audience members for consideration during the event.

All participating candidates appreciated their opportunity to appear on the stage during the Forum. This well-attended event was covered live on local radio, which also provided participants live on-air interviews prior to the event and during the breaks.

The Forum was a voter service activity of the League of Women Voters. Hopefully this event will set a precedent and be included in future Milton election activities. ◇

Education Committee Delivers Again



by Paula Montgomery

After finalizing the local government manual for Escambia teachers, our local Education Committee completed the manual on local government for Santa Rosa County teachers of government. The format is identical for both counties. On August 11, 2014, Paula Montgomery, committee chair, delivered 25 hard copies plus an electronic copy to Clark Youngblood, who coordinates the teaching of social studies for Santa Rosa County Schools. The hard copies were distributed to the teachers of government during their preschool workshop and the electronic copy will be posted on the Santa Rosa County School District web site. Mr. Youngblood remarked that the manual will be useful for teachers in 4th, 7th, and 12th grades.

A copy of the Escambia County manual is on our web site at www.lwvpba.org. A copy of the Santa Rosa County manual will be posted there as well. Early in 2015, the Education Committee will present a copy to each of the members of the Santa Rosa County School Board and to the Superintendent.

Committee members who compiled the manual are Pam Schwartz, Gail Husbands, Bob Husbands, Julie Patton, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Lorraine Ogan, Charlyle Parrish, Elizabeth Cook, and Paula. Our next meeting is on the 11th at 2:30 PM. ◇

September, 2014 League Meeting

By Bette Boddy



Mary Gutierrez, Co-President, welcomed 32 League members to the September monthly meeting. She requested that each chairperson report on the activities of her respective committee.

Voter Service

Charlyle Parrish, Voter Service chair, explained the mandate of the committee and related that members have been writing questions for WSRE Rally 2014. Members have been registering voters at a variety of events. All voter registration forms must be returned to the office of the Supervisor of Elections by October 6, the last day for registration prior to the November election. Four registration events are already scheduled for 2015.

Ellen Roston is scheduling speakers to educate the public on the three proposed constitutional amendments which will be on the November ballot.

Education

Paula Montgomery, Education chair, described the handbook on local government that committee members had researched and compiled for use in Civics and American Government classes in both Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The committee is also planning a "Women in Government" event at Pensacola High School in March.

Communications Committee

Bette Boddy discussed surveys which will be sent to the membership to compile information on the interests of our members. In turn, it is hoped this information will improve League programming and encourage greater member participation in League activities.

Social Justice Committee

Bette Boddy stated that committee members plan to explore the treatment of transgender individuals in the local jails and prisons. She also expressed concern about sexual violence on the campuses at PSC, UWF, and the Santa Rosa and Escambia school systems. Committee members continue to work with the *Escambia Youth Justice Coalition*.

Climate Change: The Cold Hard Facts

Mary Gutierrez, Natural Resources chair, announced that the committee is researching local climate change issues. She listed the LWVUS position on climate change and mentioned various issues on which members have had input. Mary showed the video, "*Climate Change: The Cold Hard Facts*", which described the basics of climate changes that are occurring at the present time.

Calendar



October

- 6 Monday, 6:30 pm **Communication Committee** at Tryon Branch Library. For further information, contact Bette Boddy at bhboddy@cox.net.
- 11 Saturday, 2:30 pm **Education Committee**, Contact Paula Montgomery at montpns@aol.com for details.
- 15 Wednesday, 12:30 - 2:30 pm **Natural Resources Committee**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. For more information, contact Mary Gutierrez, gutmry@cox.net.
- 18 Saturday, 10:15 coffee, 10:30 **General Meeting**, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. **Ballot Issues**
- 20 - Nov 1, **Early Voting**, see links for times and locations in [Escambia](#) and [Santa Rosa](#) Counties.
- 21 Tuesday, 10:00 am Azalea Trace - **International Relations**, Azalea Trace, Great Decisions discussion on [Turkey's Challenge](#), led by Gene Feicht. For further information, contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 or gfl@students.uwf.edu.
- 27 Monday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are welcome.

November

- 4 Tuesday, 7:00 am -7:00 pm, **General Election**
- 8 Saturday, 2:30 pm **Education Committee**, Contact Paula Montgomery at montpns@aol.com for details.
- 15 **Monthly Meeting** TBA
- 18 Tuesday, 10:00 am **International Relations Committee: Great Decisions** at Azalea Trace. The discussion will be [Islamic Awakening](#) lead by Dr. Don Freeman. ([See video](#)) For further information, contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 or gfl@students.uwf.edu.
- 19 Wednesday, 12:30 -2:30 pm **Natural Resources Committee** Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. For more information, contact Mary Gutierrez, gutmry@cox.net.
- 24 Saturday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are welcome.

Escambia Youth Justice Coalition September Meeting Recap

by Shirley Lewis-Brown, League Representative

Meeting Recap:

Escambia Youth Justice Coalition (EYJC) has obtained the data from school discipline and school based arrests for the last five years from state agencies. Members of EYJC requested similar data from the Escambia County School District and are still awaiting a response. Nevertheless, we are in the process of securing a statistician to review and chart the data. The results will be published in a report along with stories from local families about their children's experiences with schools and law enforcement. A special thanks to Mr. Burnette King and Dr. Veasley for synthesizing the first round of data.

Upcoming events:

EYJC in collaboration with the *Campaign for Youth Justice* presents *Youth Justice Awareness Month* and *National Bullying Prevention Month* activities

☐ **Artist Showcase** at *Open Books*, 1040 Guillemard Street
Sunday, October 19th 4 pm - 6:30 pm

☐ **Youth Justice & Anti-Bullying Training** - Woodland Heights Community Center, 111 Berkley Drive
Monday, October 20th 6 pm - 8:30 pm

This will be an in-depth training by local attorneys and advocates on what to do when stopped by law enforcement, understanding school discipline and special education, how to recognize bullying and file a complaint, and knowing your rights from arrest to adjudication or sentencing.

☐ **MIX IT UP at Lunch Day**
Tuesday, October 28th

Mix it Up at Lunch Day is a national campaign sponsored by *Teaching Tolerance* that encourages students to identify, question, and cross social boundaries. Students have identified the cafeteria as the place where divisions are most clearly drawn. Thus, on Oct 28th, students can move out of their comfort zones and connect with someone new over lunch. ([Read more here.](#)) Parents and students are encouraged to contact the school and tell them to register ([click here](#)), then YOU can sign-up to volunteer as a facilitator.

☐ The **coalition meeting** will be held on October 13th at 5:30 pm at the Englewood Baptist Church, 1100 W. Scott Street.

The League in Action

LWVUS

- endorsed S. 2865, the Voter Registration Modernization Act which promotes the use of online voter registration. The [letter](#) to Senator Gillibrand provides the rationale for this bill.
- joined with other groups in a letter requesting the U.S. Senate to hold up or down floor votes during the September work period to ensure the [Election Assistance Commission](#) is fully staffed. The EAC is vital to ensuring that the right to vote for all eligible Americans is not compromised and that elections run efficiently and fairly.



LWVFL

The following action rises directly from the League's School Choice Study of 2013-14 and on positions taken by consensus on charter school accountability and transparency. Additionally, the League has long held opposition to vouchers that use tax dollars to send students to private and/or religious schools.

- joined a [lawsuit](#) which would end public funding of vouchers, define the scope of constitutional standards, determine sufficient funding and address charter schools and the accountability system.
- focuses on the uses of the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program to pay for students attending private and sectarian schools. The second [lawsuit](#) challenges current law.

EPA Clean Power Plan Comment Deadline Extended!

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has extended the deadline for public comment on the proposed regulation to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. The new deadline is December 1. League members wishing to comment on the proposal can send comments using the [LWVUS action alert!](#)

Our Condolences to the families on the recent deaths of long time League members Fran Jones, Nancy Harrelson, Carol Young, and Doris Lea

The League of Women Voters of Florida, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513

Name _____ Birth date _____ New Mbr? Yes/No

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone (____) _____ Other (____) _____ E-mail _____

Add Family Member(s): _____

DUES: \$55.00 _____ Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 _____ Contribution _____ TOTAL _____

Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Education | Natural Resources | Social Policy | Speaker's Bureau |
| Public Relations | Library | Voter Service | Website |
| Transportation | Growth Management | Membership | Legislative Action |
| Hospitality | Photography | Naturalization | Restoration of Felon Rights |
| County Government | City Government | State Government | National Government |
| Newsletter | Voter Registration | Publicity | Social Media |
| Ethics Study | Historian | Research | Observer Corps |

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



League of Women Voters
of the Pensacola Bay Area
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